Short Supply of New Telephone Directory in Delhi

356. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) when was the current new telephone directory released in Delhi City;

(b) whether it is a fact that the supplies of telephone directory have run short of demand, with the result the subscribers visiting the Directory Distribution Centres are told to come after sometime; if so, what are the reasons for the short supply of telephone directory;

(c) wrether it is also a fact that the telephone numbers, names etc. of the officers of MTNL contained in Blue Pages, have not been updated with the result the subscribers have to face inconvenience in contacting the officers for redressal of their grievances;

(d) whether it is also a fact that one of the reasons for increase in the faults is a clusters of jumped and loose wires at street level D.Ps; and

(e) if so, the steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM); (a) The current telephone directory (1994 issue) was released for distribution to public in Delhi City on 19-12-94.

(b) Yes Sir, on certain days the supplies of telephone directory run sort of demand in some of the distribution centres. In such cases the old directories were accepted from customers and receipts were issued to them with request to come later for collecting the new directory. This was due to limited supplies received from the publisher on those days for these centres.

(c) Tre directory has been printed taking into account corrections upto 31.3.94. Names of MTNL officers are therefore corrected up to that date.

(d) and (e) DPs in some pockets need rehabilitation. To accomplish this, a drive is being undertaken to rehabilitate and improve the wiring in those DPs.

Setting up of a Telecom Factory at Jalandhar

357. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) what are the names of telecom factories in the country;

(b) whether there is any proposal under Governments consideration to set up a telecom factory at Jalandhar; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Following are the Departmental Telecom. Factories under DOT :

1. Telecom. Factory Bombay,
2. Telecom. Factory Calcutta,
3. Telecom. Factory Kharagpur,
4. Telecom. Factory Wright Town (Jabanpur),
5. Telecom Factory Richhai (Jabalpur)
6. Telecom. Factory, Bhilai
7. Telecom Factory Gopalpur (Calcutta)

(b) and (c) At present, there is no proposal under Government's consideration for setting up any new Telecom. Factory at Jalandhar or elsewhere under Department of Telecom. as there is no requirement.

Posts and Telecom Services in Orissa

358. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the poor quality of essential services available in posts and telecommunications sector in Orissa;

(b) whether it is a fact that the quality of services there needs improvements; and

(c) if so, the direction given in that regard to the posts and telecommunication, Orissa Circle, Bhubaneswar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) Posts and Telecommunication services in Orissa in general are satisfactory. Improvement of posts and telephone services is a continuous process. As such, various measures are being taken by the Departments of Post and Telecommunications for improving the quality of services.

(c) Details in respect of the Departments of Post — Telecommunications are given in statement I and II respectively.

Statement-I

Plan Schemes of the Department of Post include (a) expansion of Postal network ; (b) supply of letter boxes to villages with population over 500; (c) mechanisation and segmentation of mail processing; and (d) modernisation and computerisation of post and mail offices.

During the Eighth Five Year Plan, the details of Post offices sanctioned in Orissa in the first two years, and those proposed for the current year, out of the total post offices sanctioned/proposed to be sanctioned, are given below—

Circle Name	Post office sanctioned in 1sts two years of plan;			Target for 1994-95		
	DSO*	EDBO**	TOTAL	DSO	EDBO	Total
Orissa	12	82	94	4	4	8

*Depatmental sub post office.

**Extra departmental branch Post Office.

In the case of providing letter boxes only 8130 villages of Orissa with a population of over 500, were yet to be provided with the facility as on 31-3-94. These villages are also expected to be covered by 31-3-96.

For improving the processing of mails, the emphasis is on segmentation the mail traffic. Therefore, the Rajdhani Channel has been introduced in Orissa, linking the State Capital to Delhi. The facility of Speed Post is availalbe in Orissa.

A programme for modernising post offices through the supply of computers for counter operations has also been initiated since 1992-93 and so far 40 multi-purpose counter machines have been installed in Orissa. A focussed programme for modernising selected post offices which have already been supplied with multi-purpose counter mechines, has already been initiated and 2 post offices in Orissa Circle are proposed to be covered with in the total target of 53 post offices to be modernised in the current year. Similarly, programmes to upgrade equipment in post and mail offices are also under implementation which cover 10 post offices in Orissa.

Bhubaneshwar has also been selected for the installation of Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) for the purpose of transmission of money orders via

satellite communication which will be installed during current Plan Period.

Statement II

Details of Achievements during the year 1994-95 for Betterment of Services in Orissa

(i) Already 99.04 per cent of exchanges in Orissa are Electronic exchanges and 8 electro-mechanical exchanges have been replaced by electronic exchanges during the year.

(ii) Computerisation in respect of 3 Fault Repair Services and 3 Telecom Revenu Billing have been done during the year.

(iii) Besides the above, 6700 old type of telephone instruments, 13 KM of old Under Ground Cable and 735 KM of old and worn-out cable have been replaced with new ones during the year to improve the quality of services in Orissa.

Satellite Link for Money Order in Hyderabad

359. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hyderabad has been brought under satellite link for delivery of money orders;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether more places in Andhra Pradesh will be brought under the satellite link for money order deliveries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c) In order to speed up transmission of Money Orders, the Department of Posts has initiated a project of electronic data transfer through VSAT (Very Small Aparture Terminal) and sattellite channel. 6 VSATs for this project have been set up in Delhi, Madras, Bangalore, Lucknow, Patna and Shimla and 20 more including those at Hydereabad and Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh are presently under installation. Altogether 75 VSAT stations are to be set up in the country during the current plan period including a few more in Andhra Pradesh

Concessional I.S.D call charges

360. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to reduce International Subscriber Dail call charges during holidays;

(b) if so, the deatils thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that foreign telecom companies offer concessioned ISD calls; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) The question of tariff for oversees communication services is dependent upon a number of factors including revenue sharing with other countries and is, therefore, examined by the Government periodically.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Same as at 'a' and 'b' above.

Changes in the set up of postal Divisions

361. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to effect some changes in the present set up of Postal Divisions' Officers and Accounts Section in the Postal offices; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) It is the constant endeavour of the Government to ensure that administrative structures function with optimum effi-